IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Jeffrey D. Messerly

Serial No.: 10/047,601

Atty Dkt. Ref.: END-810 **Group Art Unit: 3737**

Title: BLADES WITH FUNCTIONAL BALANCE ASYMMETRIES FOR USE WITH ULTRASONIC SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (703) 746-7449 on

December 11, 2003

(Date of facsimile transmission)

Verne E. Kreger, Jr. (Name of person signing, applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative

December 11, 2003 (Date of Signature)

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME AND AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT THEREFOR

Dear Sir:

Applicant(s) petition(s) the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend the time for response to the Office Action dated June 11, 2003 for three (3) month(s) from 09/18/03 to 12/18/03. An Amendment responding to the aforesaid Office Action is being filed concurrently herewith.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 10-0750/END-810/VEK in the name of Johnson & Johnson for the cost of filing this Petition.

Respectfully submitted,

Verne E. Kreger, Jr.

Reg. No. 35,231

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Johnson & Johnson One Johnson & Johnson Plaza New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003 (513) 337-3295 DATE: December 11, 2003